

Present

Bilal Ansari, Van Ellet, Cathy Yamamoto (chair)

Absent

Charles Bonenti, Cheryl Shanks

Also Present: Joan Burns (Housing Authority), Stephen Dravis (iBerkshires)

**Business**

1. The minutes of the August 28 meeting were approved.
2. The proposal by O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun (OTO) was discussed. The proposal, at a cost of \$13,350, will address an area of reportable contamination at 59 Water Street, discovered in a prior site evaluation done earlier this year, which requires further quantification. It was moved by Ellet and seconded by Ansari that the Committee pay for this work. Concerns raised during discussion of the motion were: the potential cost of disposal of contaminated samples (a cost that will be additional to the proposal cost), the timeframe in which the work will be done, and the cost of the ultimate cleanup of the area. The motion passed unanimously. Yamamoto will share the concerns with Town Manager Fohlin.
3. PhoTech. A meeting with Tighe & Bond regarding their assessment of that site is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 10. Yamamoto will inquire if a member of the AHC may attend.
4. Ellet has gathered information about community housing, which he will present at a future meeting.
5. Meeting with state officials. The idea of committee members traveling to Boston to meet with elected officials and department heads was discussed. This could help to raise awareness and convey a sense of urgency to those who make decisions related to funding, if done at the right time.
6. USDA visit. State Director Jay Healy and Area Director Len Shuzdak met with us on September 19. USDA wants to increase their involvement in Berkshire County and is motivated to work with us. As we move forward, Len will be our contact regarding USDA programs.
7. Yamamoto reported on the September 19 HousingUs conference in Gt. Barrington. We are currently working with HousingUs, a division of Berkshire Taconic Foundation, on the preparation of a brochure about the accessory apartments bylaw passed at this year's Town Meeting. The most important takeaway from the day was the need for an updated housing needs assessment. Yamamoto will draft a scope of services and letter to consultants for review at our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 9, 8:00 PM, Town Hall**